

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) Method for the preparation of a biological fertilizer comprising:

subjecting whey to a first fermentation step[[],];  
subjecting the fermented whey to a filtration step[], and];

~~the addition of adding~~ a cellulose-rich carrier material to the filtered fermented whey ~~at a ratio of fermented whey to carrier material of between 10 and 15; and~~

~~subjecting the mixture of cellulose-rich carrier material and filtered fermented whey to a second fermentation step.~~

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, further comprising, prior to and/or during the first fermentation of the whey, the inoculation of the whey with a culture of microorganisms.

4. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the first fermentation is performed ~~at~~ a pH between 5 and 7, preferably at a pH between 4 and 4.5.

5. - 6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1,

further comprising the addition of lime.

8. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1,  
wherein the carrier material is a gum resin-poor carrier  
material.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1,  
wherein the carrier material is selected from the group  
consisting of saw dust, beech saw dust, oak saw dust, dried  
nettle, and combinations thereof.

11. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1,  
further comprising the addition of trace elements, nutrients,  
minerals, growth hormones, stabilizers, organic compounds,  
and/or antibiotics.

12. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1  
wherein the biological fertilizer is in a form selected from the  
group consisting of a powder, granules, a suspension, a  
dispersion, fibrous matter, a solution, a mixture, and  
combinations thereof.

13. (currently amended) Biological fertilizer obtained  
obtainable by a method according to claim 1.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) Composition for biologically  
fertilizing soil comprising a biological fertilizer ~~according to~~

claim 13 obtained by a method according to claim 1.

16. (currently amended) A method for fertilizing a substrate for plant growth, comprising:

applying a biological fertilizer ~~according to claim 13~~  
obtained by a method according to claim 1 to the substrate.

17. (previously presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein the substrate for plant growth is chosen from the group consisting of soil, vermiculite, glass fibers, rockwool, and aquaculture.

18. (currently amended) A method for improving a soil composition and/or soil structure, comprising:

applying a biological fertilizer ~~according to claim 13~~  
obtained by a method according to claim 1 to the soil composition and/or soil structure.

19. (currently amended) Method for fertilizing soil comprising:  
~~application of applying~~ a biological fertilizer ~~according to claim 13~~  
obtained by a method according to claim 1, onto and/or into soil.

20. (currently amended) Use of a composition according to claim 15 for fertilization of a substrate for plant growth by applying said composition to said substrate.

21. (currently amended) A method for fertilizing a substrate for plant growth, comprising:

applying a biological fertilizer ~~according to claim 15~~  
obtained by a method according to claim 1 to the substrate.

22. (currently amended) Method for fertilizing soil comprising:  
applying a composition ~~according to claim 15~~ obtained by a  
method according to claim 1 onto and/or into soil.